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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COHEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE COHEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

HONORING THE ASHE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL "CANS AND PANS" STEEL DRUM BAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, I was honored to join the Ashe County High School "Cans and Pans" Steel Drum Band at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center where these fine young people performed for our Nation's wounded warriors. It was a true privilege to give these student musicians, their committed parents and their band director, Scott Turnmyre, a tour of the Capitol before they played for our brave men and women in uniform.

Earlier in the morning while we shared breakfast together, I was struck with how unique this group of young

people is. Their desire to perform for our Nation's brave men and women in uniform illustrated the depth of their character and the caliber of their families and of the communities that have raised them. Their music, no doubt, lifted the spirits of our troops at Walter Reed Medical Center. The fact that they would travel hundreds of miles was nothing short of inspiring for all who were in attendance.

I want to thank Band Director Scott Turnmyre for the long hours and hard work he put into getting this trip together and for rallying the people of Ashe County to this very worthy cause. Their generous donations helped make this trip a reality.

The people at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel also deserve praise. When they learned about the band's plans to play for the troops at Walter Reed, they graciously reduced the band's room rates during peak tourist season. Kenny Lincoln, Monica Rao and Lisa Schmitt at the hotel went the extra mile to help make this trip possible for the Ashe County Steel Drum Band.

Mike Asgedom at the Union Station parking garage also generously reduced the parking rate for the band's charter bus. Here on Capitol Hill, Stefan Bieret and Ted Daniel in the Sergeant at Arms Office provided on-site parking for the bus while Scott, the students and their parents joined me for breakfast in the Capitol and for a tour.

Of course, I don't want to forget the fine people serving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They took care of every detail from parking to setup to greeting the students. Nancy Popejoy, Dayna Jamison and Latanya Torrence dotted every "I" and crossed every "T," and I applaud them for a job well done.

I also want to thank Walter Reed Health Care System Commander, Colonel Patricia Horoho. Colonel Horoho took time out of her very busy schedule to thank personally each of the stu-

dents, and she presented them each with her commander's coin in recognition of their outstanding performance. Colonel Horoho, who also is an Appalachian State University alumna, is a fine example of a dedicated leader who went above and beyond to welcome and to congratulate the students.

Yesterday's performance was an illustration of the generosity and kindness of the people of the Fifth District. It was a proud moment for Ashe County High School. The band members' director, Scott Turnmyre, and the parents are to be commended for their service to our wounded warriors at Walter Reed.

Mr. Speaker, the remarks made by President Bush and by Pope Benedict during the Pope's visit to the United States last week were profound and should be available widely. So I am offering them today to be included in the RECORD.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT BUSH AND HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI AT THE WHITE HOUSE, APRIL 16, 2008

President Bush: Holy Father, Laura and I are privileged to have you here at the White House. We welcome you with the ancient words commended by Saint Augustine: "Pax Tecum." Peace be with you.

You've chosen to visit America on your birthday. Well, birthdays are traditionally spent with close friends, so our entire nation is moved and honored that you've decided to share this special day with us. We wish you much health and happiness—today and for many years to come.

This is your first trip to the United States since you ascended to the Chair of Saint Peter. You will visit two of our greatest cities and meet countless Americans, including many who have traveled from across the country to see with you and to share in the joy of this visit. Here in America you'll find a nation of prayer. Each day millions of our citizens approach our Maker on bended knee, seeking His grace and giving thanks for the many blessings He bestows upon us. Millions of Americans have been praying for your visit, and millions look forward to praying with you this week.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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